

## *President's Letter*

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At Alamogordo, on July 16, 1945, an atomic bomb was detonated. This was the focal point of undoubtedly the most concentrated, unified and costly effort ever mounted in the history of the scientific world. Time and circumstance determined that a world war would provide the stimulus and the funds for the fabrication of a nuclear weapon but the bomb itself represents a station in the long forward march of physical science.

It is not difficult to perceive that mankind has historically advanced in epochal periods related to intellectual outbursts, geographic discoveries, religious fervors, military campaigns and other similar criticalities. It is characteristic of these revolutionary epochs that at the moment they were little recognized as such by even those who were most instrumental in bringing on the changes. Did Columbus appreciate his relationship to the Elizabethan era; who precipitated the Renaissance.

Of what has happened no one is in doubt in our time. The scientists assembled on a summer morn at Alamogordo knew full well that in the fireball of a nuclear explosion the Atomic Age had been born! Not again could science, or diplomacy, or economics, or education, or the fate of men, be as it had been.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine is a spark of that fireball. It came into being within eight years of Alamogordo. Its objectives are unique; it is a pioneer in leadership; it moves toward greatness.

I cannot speak for all the talents that go to make up this Society. But for medicine I know that the Society represents one of the avenues leading toward the great and current changes in medical education that are identified as molecular biology. The old authoritarian approach to medical teaching is on the wane; it had its place. But the energy of the atomic nucleus, by whatever manner expressed, now comes into its own.

It is customary for a retiring president to render thanks to those in his administration who have given help and to urge that this loyalty be extended to the administration that follows after. These things I do and freely. I have received magnificent assistance; and for the future I reserve no doubts.

But may I be indulged in an emotional moment to exhort the membership to remember its lineage; to continue its loyal support and to achieve its manifest inheritance; to overcome any answerable problems of the moment; and to mold this young Society into an instrument of strength that shall endure an hundred years; and mayhap after. Thank you so much.